Congestion of mobile phone lines

899. SHRIMATILALSARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile phone connections as on 1st January, 2005 and 31 st October, 2006;

(b) whether it is a fact that the rapid growth in the number makes the number makes the network busy many times; and

(c) the steps the BSNL is going to take to dilute traffic congestion of mobile phone lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of mobile phone connections as on 1st January, 2005 was about 50 million and as on 31 st October, 2006 is around 136 million, as reported by the Service Provider's Association.

(b) and (c) Congestion within the mobile network, *inter-alia* depends on the traffic generated at the given point of time and the network capacity.

BSNL is continuously augmenting the capacity of its mobile network and optimizing the same to meet the Quality of Service benchmarks as prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

Supply of ADSL-II to all states

900. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONSAND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL officials have not accepted fresh applications due to non-availability of modems recently in Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to increase the supply of ADSL-II modems in all States;

(d) whether the BSNL is making efforts to improve its broadband connectivity iri the Visakhapatnam city as well as suburban areas by installing type-ll swiches at Dabagardens, Mindhi and Visakhapatnam;